IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 1071

International Court of Justice

PT Heading !

H1071-0002

MR. TAYLOR: Will you please remind the witness that he is still under oath.

(The witness is reminded of his oath.)

DR. BOEHM: I do not wish to state whether or not we shall have to hear this witness again before the Tribunal. That is not a final decision.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. You told me yesterday afternoon that you were acquainted with the word, "Wehrmannschaften."

A. Yes.

Q. I have suggested to you that the word applied equally to the activities of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ reiterkorps.

A. As far as I know, the reiterkorps did not have any wehrmannschaften of its own.

Q. Will you just look at these documents. These are articles which appeared in the publication "Der SA Fuehrer" in October and September, 1936. They are D 914 and D 913.

DR. LOEFFLER: I wish to make a comment upon the document just submitted. This document does not refer to the reiterkorps, because it is not an official publication of the reiterkorps. The second witness, who has not as yet been approved, can speak for the membership of the reiterkorps that this publication did not have any contact with the reiterkorps.

MR. TAYLOR: Let's hear the rest of the question before I can rule on that.

BY MR. MARECCO: ~~These are articles from the publication "Der SA Fuehrer"~~ Whether Q. These are articles from the publication, "Der SA Fuehrer." Whether or not that was an official publication will subsequently appear. Witness, will you look at the third paragraph of the October article, "The need for a horse SA was

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finally recognised by the National Socialist Corps of Horsemen; and by the introduction of a riding certificate, its purpose was in fact given a clearly defined direction which extracted all doubts." After describing various advantages of equestrian training, it goes on: "But the crux of the matter lies in a quite different field...", and this is what we are going into particularly here, "...the age-old problem of infantry versus cavalry is no longer a subject for earnest dispute today." It goes on to describe the uses of infantry and cavalry in warfare. The article concludes with the paragraph, "The Infantry versus cavalry--there is no difference between them anymore. Seen from this point, the units will give SA men such a training as to give them preference in being drafted into a horse or horsedrawn military unit." Witness, doesn't that article indicate that the word "wehrmannschaften" was a word which might possibly be applied to the activities of the reiterkorps?

A. I cannot answer this question, formulated as it is, because my answer would give it a completely distorted picture.

Q. Doesn't the last paragraph say, in so many words, that a riding certificate was no more or no less than a military qualification?

A. The riding certificate is a certificate of efficiency in the sport of riding.

Q. Can't you just look at the words given here, and answer my question? Doesn't the paragraph say categorically that the riding certificate was in fact a military qualification? Well, you understand German, Witness; you know what those words mean.

A. The contents of these articles do not concern the reiterkorps.

MR. TAYLOR: Will the witness answer the question, if he can answer it.

A. I can only state here that the article, as written, is the fulfillment of a wish...

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MR. TAYLOR: The question was asked you, and I ~~m~~ am sure that you can understand what the question was. The Commission would like to have the witness help to save a little time. Will you repeat the question to the witness, please.

(The question is repeated.)

MR. TAYLOR: There is no use in ~~xxxxx~~ wasting so much time. I hope the Counsel will assist the Commission.

MR. MARECCO: I will repeat the question. ~~Xxxx

Com. B
Take 2 - P 6
Noll
26 June 1946
Walle
BY MR. MARECCO

Q. ~~MxxxMARECCO~~: You told me just now that you didn't consider that that article referred to the reiterkorps. To what do the words "the horse units which are to give suitable SA men ~~xxx~~ preparatory training in riding" refer, if they don't refer to the reiterkorps?

A. I do not know the author of this article, and I wish to point out ~~xxx~~ in this connection that many articles have been written by many professional leaders.

MR. TAYLOR: I am going to excuse this witness now if he doesn't answer these questions. I want to admonish him that the Commission is going to require him to answer the questions.

A. The words "riding SA" appear in this article...

~~MxxxMARECCOx~~
BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. It doesn't matter who the writer of this article was, these words couldn't apply to anything but the reiterkorps, could they?

A. Of course; that's what it says.

Q. Will you look at the article of December, 1936. You will see that the article begins with a long discussion of the same problem--cavalry versus infantry. At the bottom of the first page, it goes on:- -"~~The duties of the whole SA should be how to leave the riding ring and how to take cognisance of practical tasks...~~" ~~And further on, "And if, for instance, an SA unit on maneuvers has to scout through a part of the terrain or to secure it, in that case the Reiterkorps has to do reconnaisance and has to report on whether the roads are passable. It reaches the sector inquestion, which it may observe unnoticed and temporarily cut off."~~

This part belongs to x on page 5

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DR. LOEFFLER: I want to shorten the procedure. The Defense does not challenge the fact that the author of this article takes the point of view that the reiterkorps is pre-military training. That is being admitted by the ~~defe~~ Defense. The only thing we do dispute is that the words of the author were ~~w~~ in no way binding upon the reiterkorps or that they were in any way put into practice. I ask that the witness be heard rather on whether the tasks were put into practice.

MR. MARECCO: I did not continually interrupt the Defense Counsel when he was questioning the witness. I think that I may be given the same consideration.

MR. TAYLOR: The Prosecution is entitled to proceed with the witness.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. Will you look now at the passages that I directed you to. Witness, this was no riding for sport, was it? This was military training.

A. This article does not depict the actual situation as it existed in the reiterkorps. It is a direction, and a wish of the author.

Q. Here is some more: "The aim of the maneuver is merely ~~to~~ how to leave the riding ring and how to take cognisance of practical tasks? And further on, "And if, for instance, an SA unit on maneuvers has to scoutthrougha part of the terrain or t to secure it, in thatcase the Reiterkorps has to reconnaisance a nd has to report on whether the roads are passa ble. It reaches the sector in question, which it may observe unnoticed and temporarily cut off".

Do you mean to say that such ~~exercises~~ exercises were never, in fact, ordered?

A. In my opinion, the National Socialist Association never executed any cross-country tasks.

Q. I understand you to say that this is a pure fiction and that SA men in fact never meant to carry out exercises of this nature?

A. The ~~tasks~~ tasks of the members of reiterkorps were entirely different.

Q. These are the last words of the article? "Our men are leaders

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"Someday our men ought to become awake soldiers with initiative, the men that bring with them the ability to think and act independently,

and the greater will be the esteem in which the armed forces hold the SA."

A. Those are wishes and directives, and they do not correspond to the actual facts. The farmers in the country, who belonged to the rural riding societies, and later to the reiterkorps, had entirely different aims and tasks. For professional reasons he had to become familiar with the breeding of horses and the schooling of horses.

Q. I am not asking you about the breeding of horses. I am asking you about the words in this article. If this article was the purest wishful thinking, what explanation can you offer for its appearance in a responsible publication?

A. Riding in Germany, and particularly in the army, declined more and more.

Q. I am not interested in your opinion on that subject. It is widely known that the cavalry was used by the wehrmacht in this war to a great extent. Will you answer my question.

DR. LOEFFLER: I would ask you to let the witness finish. Because he is not a lawyer, he is not very fluent in his speech.

MR. TAYLOR: The Commission is going to ask the witness to confine himself to the question.

DR. LOEFFLER: He is always being interrupted just when he is about to answer the question.

MR. TAYLOR: I heard the witness testify the other day, and he understood your questions. Apparently he does not understand the questions on cross-examination. I am going to ask the witness to confine himself to the questions.

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DR. LOEFFLER: May I again point out that I have another witness for these questions. I shall again ask that...

MR. TAYLOR: I hope the Counsel for the Defense will understand that this Commission is not being held for the purpose of a lot of conferences and personal opinions. It is evidence that we want.

MR. MARECCO: I will ask my question for the last time.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. Will you attempt to explain why this article appears in a responsible SA publication if it is a complete fiction and has no basis in truth at all?

A. I want to show how such an article could have appeared in that paper--from the point of view of being a witness who is to testify for the general situation around the country.

MR. TAYLOR: That is not an answer to that question at all.

DR. LOEFFLER: --

MR. TAYLOR: Just sit down and let the witness answer.

A. In my opinion, the reason for the appearance of this article in that paper is that it was an opportunity for the leaders, who were a little worried about their existence, to counteract the lack of interest, in our group, which might be disseminated among the people.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. As I understand your evidence, one of the chief points you made was that the reiterkorps was a refuge for the politically persecuted. Wasn't that the sheerest nonsense?

A. I want to state thatthe reiterkorps contained many people who needed a political cover for their former activities.

Q. Tell me why the politically persecuted should choose a riding club to join.

A. They could be accepted as members in the reiterkorps without having their

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political past investigated. This put the reiterkorps in a position diametrically opposed to most socialistic organizations.

Q. I put it to you that the reiterkorps was as much engaged in [illegible] as any other political corps.

A. I must reject this and stick to the statement which I made yesterday.

MR. MARECCO: No further questions, sir.

[redacted]

BY COMMANDER FELTON:

Q. Did I understand you to say that the reasons for publishing this article was to counteract the feeling of the lack of importance of horses?

A. In a lack of interest in horses. That may have been misunderstood.

Q. To counteract what, then?

A. It was generally known that Hitler did not wish to have anything to do with horses. He rejected the horse in the army. It was just as well known that the higher leadership contimued to demonstrate their necessity.

Q. Was the reiterkorps afraid that the members would lose interest in remaining members of the reiterkorps?

A. The tendency, particularly among youth, was toward motorization.

Q. It was, tnen, the desire of the SA leadership to increase interest in getting more and more members into the reiterkorps?

A. The constantly diminishing importance of the SA after the seizure of power was generally known.

Q. Just answer my question.

(Question is repeated.)

A. It was important to the leaders that they should increase their membership, just as it was important to the general Sa that they should have

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ever-increasing membership.

Q. Wasn't it the purpose of this article to give incentive to keep people in the reiterkorps or to join the reiterkorps?

A. That might have been the purpose of this article, but it was not read in the lower circles.

Q. You say that the cavalry was a receding part of the wehrmacht. Do you have any idea of the numbers--the hundreds and thousands--of horses used in the cavalry and artillery of the wehrmacht?

A. I have no idea of the figures. I only knew that new tasks were constantly assigned to mounted regiments, and that whole groups were transferred to other formations.

Q. How do you know, Witness, when you make a statement saying that a person, by being a member of the reiterkorps, was not entitled by right to join the cavalry instead of some other branch of the German forces?

A. I do not understand...

Q. I shall reframe the question: By what means are you able to tell the Commission that mere membership in the reiterkorps did not give a member the right to select the cavalry as his branch of service? Before you answer that question, I shall ask you another one, so that you can answer them both together: From what source did you get your knowledge that only four out of thirty men in your city who were members of the reiterkorps were assigned to a cavalry unit?

A. The first question: As far as the wehrmacht was concerned, the draftee was not entitled to anything whatsoever. The riding certificate was merely a certificate of degree of efficiency regarding his ability to ride or to drive.

Q. My question was, how do you know?

A. From my own city. Young people who had these riding certificates were not assigned where they wanted to go.

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~~xxxRext~~

MR. TAYLOR: Don't you think we have gone into that far enough?

COMMANDER FELTON: No more questions.

DR. LOEFFLER: I have one question.

BY DR. LOEFFLER:

Q. The Prosecution asked the witness yesterday, how and by what means the reiterkorpw made active opposition to the SA. As a small sub-leader of the SA, you declare that you were not familiar with the leadership. But you can make statements of the x opposition within the broad mass of the reiterkorps. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the reiterkorps reject the philosophical training as demanded by the Party?

A. Almost nothing of philosophical training was given.

Q. Is it correct that the Party demanded such, and that the reiterkorps would not do it?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it correct that the Party demanded the exclusion of politically suspicious people, and that the reiterkorps refused to do so?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. Is it correct that the Party demanded that, in 1937, all members of the reiterkorps were to be transferred into the Party, and that the reiterkorps refused that demand?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it correct that, up to and including the dissolution, many members of the reiterkorps were not Party members?

A. That is correct.

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MR. MARECCO: I understood that the Defense Counsel had only one question to ask.

DR. LOEFFLER: I will be finished by one o'clock, I have said.

BY DR. LOEFFLER:

Q. Did you notice that there was a difference between the attitude of the high political leadership and the sub-leadership?

A. I discussed this with several group riding leaders--which are the highest leaders, and I found that these shared the opinions of the members of the reiterkorps.

Q. The Prosecution has asked whether the farmers who owned their own horses had to be necessarily members of the reiterkorps, since, after all, they could exercise their sport on their own horses outside the club. You told us that 80% of the members were farmers; for these the important part was the breeding and care of horses. Was it necessary that, if farmers wanted to listen to a lecture by a veterinarian on the illness of horses, such farmers had to apply for a veterinarian to come to them?

A. Yes.

Q. And is it true that, because of that, the farmers had to form an association for the breeding and care of horses for purely agricultural reasons?

A. That was the reason why the farmers had to establish associations before, as well as after, 1933.

Q. Does the witness stick to his statement that such associations, after 1933, were allowed only if they belonged to the National Socialist Riding Corps?

MR. TAYLOR: I think he answered that yesterday. That is repetition.

~~DR. LOEFFLER: Regarding military training.~~

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By DR. LOEFFLER:

Q. About military training. The prosecution believes that the articles submitted to you are a consummation of the fact that the reiterkorps has trained wehrmannschaften. Do you know when the SA wehrmannschaften were established?

A. I don't know exactly, but I think during wartime.

[redacted]

Q. I wish to state that the articles are dated 1936, when there were no wehrmannschaften. Witness, you have stated that you are acquainted with the practicesof the reiterkorps in a large part of Germany. Either in your own home town, or anywhere else in Germany, did you ever hear of military practices being executed as described in these articles? I shall submit the details of the article to you. Have you ever heard that scouting exercises were practiced?

MR. TAYLOR: I think that the witness answered that a while ago.

DR. LOEFFLER: I wish to question the witness on what the Prosecution submitted. I shall make the questions short.

By DR. LOEFFLER:

Q. Have you ever heard of any practices by the [redacted] reiterkorps in regard to scouting?

A. No.

Q. Maneuvers?

A. No.

Q. ~~Didn't~~ Wouldn't it be the same to reproach a member of the automobile club for training for possible assignment to a driver's job in the army?

A. That might be a good comparison.

Q. ~~Did~~ membership in the reiterkorps alone entitle the member to ask for an assignment to a mounted unit of the wehrmacht?

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A. No.

DR. LOEFFLER: I do not believe that the witness has been understood correctly ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ regarding the meaning of the article.

MR. TAYLOR: I think we have heard enough about the article.

DR. LOEFFLER: No further questions. But regarding the problems pertaining to the highest leadership and also questions pertaining to these articles, I wish to question the other witness.

MR. TAYLOR: Very well.

DR. LOEFFLER: All these articles have nothing to do with the practical activity of the reiterkorps.

MR. MARECCO: May I put one question?

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. Did I understand you correctly when you said that wehrmannschafte was not used before the war?

A. I was asked when wehrmannschaften were established. In my opinion, in wartime.

Q. Will you just look at that. That is a pre-war publication, isn't it?

DR. LOEFFLER: I object to the submission of this document.

MR. TAYLOR: Just a moment. This is proper cross-examination. Let the witness look through the book and answer the question. The instrument isn't being offered yet. Is he ready to answer the question?

MR. MARECCO: That's a pre-war publication, isn't it? It's a publication entitled "The Face of the Party", in which appears not one single thing about the war. Therefore, we can assume that it is a pre-war publication.

MR. TAYLOR: Is it a pre-war publication, Witness?

MR. MARECCO: Surely you can answer the question. It is an undated publication and obviously a pre-war publication.

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[redacted]

A. It is a compilation regarding several National Socialist organizations.

[redacted]

Q. [redacted] Is it likely that there would be a Party publication published during the war which does not mention one word about the war?

A. I cannot answer that.

Q. Will you look at Page 19. Do you see the word in large letters---"SA wehrmannschaften"?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you consider that that applies to training carried on in wartime?

A. I have to repeat what I said before. In my opinion the wehrmannschaften were established during the war.

Q. I am not asking your opinion. Do you not see the words "SA wehrmannschaften", and see them in a pre-war article?

DR. LOEFFLER: Judge Jackson has withdrawn the charges against the wehrmannschafte, on 28 February 1946.

MR. TAYLOR: Objection overruled. The question is proper cross-examination.

MR. MARECCO: I shall repeat my question.

[redacted]

(Question is repeated.)

A. I want to peruse the article before I can judge that.

DR. LOEFFLER: I want to ask one question of the witness. Is it correct that much has been written in Germany during for twelve years regarding the relationship of wehrmannschaften to...

MR. TAYLOR: This Commission is adjourned.

(Commission adjourned at 1305 hours.)

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of ~~KARL WAHL~~ RICHARD WAHLE, taken on 26 June 1946.

Reporter (pp 1 - 14

CERTIFIED TO :

Commissioner

H1071-0017

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

MR. TAYLOR: Will you please remind the witness that he is still under oath.

(The witness is reminded of his oath.)

DR. BOEHM: I do not wish to state whether or not we shall have to hear this witness again before the Tribunal. That is not a final decision.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q You told me yesterday afternoon that you were acquainted with the word, "Wehrmannschaften."

A Yes.

Q I have suggested to you that the word applied equally to the activities of the reiterkorps.

A As far as I know, the reiterkorps did not have any Wehrmannschaften of its own.

Q Will you just look at these documents. These are articles which appeared in the publication "Der SA Fuehrer" in October and December 1936. They are D914 and D913.

DR. LOEFFLER: I wish to make a comment upon the document just submitted. This document does not refer to the reiterkorps, because it is not an official publication of the reiterkorps. The second witness, who has not as yet been approved, can speak for the membership of the reiterkorps that this publication did not have any contact with the reiterkorps.

MR. TAYLOR: Let's hear the rest of the question before I can rule on that.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q These are articles from the publication, "Der SA Fuehrer". Whether or not that was an official publication will subsequently appear. Witness, will you look at the third paragraph of the October article, "The need for a horse SA was finally recognized by the National Socialist Corps of Horsemen; and by the introduc-

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tion of a riding certificate, its purpose was in fact given a clearly defined direction which extracted all doubts." After describing various advantages of equestrian training, it goes on: "But the crux of the matter lies in a quite different field.. and this is what we are going into particularly here, "...the age-old problem of infantry versus cavalry is no longer a subjec for earnest dispute today." It goes on to describe the uses of infantry and cavalry in warfare. The article concludes with the paragraph, "Infantry versus cavalry--there is no difference between them anymore. Seen from this point, the units will give SA men such a training as to give them preference in being drafted into a horse or horsedrawn military unit." Witness, doesn't that article indicate that the word "Wehrmannschaften" was a word which might possibly be applied to the activities of the reiterkorps?

A I cannot answer this question, formulated as it is, because my answer would give it a completely distorted picture.

Q Doesn't the last paragraph say, in so many words, that a riding certificate was no more or no less than a military qualification?

A The riding certificate is a certificate of efficiency in the sport of riding.

Q Can't you just look at the words given here, and answer my question? Doesn't the paragraph say categorically that the riding certificate was in fact a military qualification?

Well, you understand German, Witness; you know what those words mean.

A The contents of these articles do not concern the reiterkorps.

MR. TAYLOR: Will the witness answer the question, if he can answer it.

A I can only state here that the article, as written, is the fulfillment of a wish....

MR. TAYLOR: The question was asked you, and I am sure

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that you can understand what the question was. The Commission would like to have the witness help to save a little time. Will you repeat the question to the witness, please.

(The question is repeated.)

MR. TAYLOR: There is no use in wasting so much time. I hope the Counsel will assist the Commission.

MR. MARECCO: I will repeat the question.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q Doesn't the last paragraph of this article say categorically that the riding certificate was a military qualification?

A I again wish to state that the paragraph describes a situation which was not extended in reality.

MR. TAYLOR: That is not the question , and the Commission is going to ask you.....

DR. LOEFFLER: I object, because the witness has stated before that, in practice, the riding certificate was of no importance whatsoever. The Prosecution can only ask whether this article causes the witness to change his mind. We do not know whether the article submitted has any significance, and we do not know who the author was. The witness is not a member of the central leadership. He can only say what the practice was among the mass of the membership of the reiterkorps.

MR. MARECCO: The authority of the SA man will be dealt with in due course. I am only asking the witness to answer my questions in a straightforward manner.

MR. TAYLOR: The Commission rules that the witness give his answer to that question.

A An answer of " Yes" or "No" would distort the picture.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q You told me just now that you didn't consider that that article referred to the reiterkorps. To what do the words "the horse units which are to give suitable SA men preparatory training in riding" refer, if they don't refer to the reiterkorp

A I do not know the author of this article, and I wish

to point out in this connection that many articles have been written by many professional leaders.

MR. TAYLOR: I am going to excuse this witness now if he doesn't answer these questions. I want to admonish him that the Commission is going to require him to answer the questions.

A The words "riding SA" appear in this article....

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q It doesn't matter who the writer of this article was, these words couldn't apply to anything but the reiterkorps, could they?

A Of course; that's what it says.

Q Will you look at the article of December, 1936. You will see that the article begins with a long discussion of the same problem -- cavalry versus infantry. At the bottom of the first page, it goes on: --

DR. LOEFTLER: I want to shorten the procedure. The Defense does not challenge the fact that the author of this article takes the point of view that the reiterkorps is pre-military training. That is being admitted by the Defense. The only thing we do dispute is that the words of the author were in no way binding upon the reiterkorps or that they were in any way put into practice. I ask that the witness be heard rather on whether the tasks were put into practice.

MR. MARECCO: I did not continually interrupt the Defense Counsel when he was questioning the witness. I think that I may be given the same consideration.

MR. TAYLOR: The Prosecution is entitled to proceed with the witness.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q Will you look now at the passages that I directed you to. Witness, this was no riding for sport, was it? This was military training.

A This article does not depict the actual situation as it existed in the reiterkorps. It is a direction, and a wish of the author.

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Q Here is some more: " The aim of the maneuver is merely how to leave the riding ring and how to take cognisance of practical tasks. And further on, " And if, for instance, an SA unit on manouvers has to scout through a part of the terrain or to secure it, in that case the Reiterkorps has to reconnaisance and has to report on whether the roads are passabl It reaches the sector in question, which it may observe unnotice and temporarily cut off".

Do you mean to say that such exercises were never, in fact, ordered?

A In my opinion, the National Socialist Association never executed any cross-country tasks.

Q I understand you to say that this is a pure fiction and that SA men in fact never meant to carry out exercises of this nature?

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Q Those are the last words of the article: " Someday our men ought to become awake soldiers with initiative, the men that bring with them the ability to think and act independen ly, and the greater will be the esteem in which the armed forces hold the SA."

A Those are wishes and directives, and they do not correspond to the actual facts. The farmers in the country, who belonged to the rural riding societies, and later to the reiterkorps, had entirely different aims and tasks. For professional reasons he had to become familiar with the breeding of horses and the schooling of horses.

Q I am not asking you about the breeding of horses. I am asking you about the words in this article. If this article was the purest wishful thinking, what explanation can you offer for its appearance in a responsible publication?

A Riding in Germany, and particularly in the army, declined more and more.

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Q I am not interested in your opinion on that subject. It is widely known that the cavalry was used by the Wehrmacht in this war to a great extent. Will you answer my question.

DR. LOEFFLER I would ask you to let the witness finish. Because he is not a lawyer, he is not very fluent in his speech.

MR. TAYLOR: The Commission is going to ask the witness to confine himself to the question.

DR. LOEFFLER: He is always being interrupted just when he is about to answer the question.

MR. TAYLOR: I heard the witness testify the other day, and he understood your questions. Apparently he does not understand the questions on cross-examination. I am going to ask the witness to confine himself to the questions.

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DR. LOEFFLER : May I again point out that I have another witness for these questions. I shall again ask that...

MR. TAYLOR : I hope the Counsel for the defense will understand that this Commission is not being held for the purpose of a lot of conferences and personnal opinions. It is evidence that we want.

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BY MR. MARCCO :

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MR. TAYLOR : That is not an answer to that question at all.

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Q Tell me why the politically persecuted should choose a riding club to join.

A They could be accpoted as members in the reiterkorps without having their political past investigated. This put the reiterkorps in a position diametrically opposed to most socialistic organizations.

Q I put it to you that the reiterkorps was as much engaged in Wehrmannschaften as any other political corps.

A I must reject this and stick to the statement which I made yesterday.

MR. MARCUS : No further questions, sir.

BY COMMANDER FELTON :

Q Did I understand you to say that the reasons for publishing this article was to counteract the feeling of the lac of importance of horses?

A In a lack of interest in horses. That may have been misunderstood.

Q To counteract what, then?

A It was generally known that Hitler did not wish to have anything to do with horses. He rejected the horse in the army. It was just as well known that the higher leadership continued to demonstrate their necessity.

Q. Was the reiterkorps afraid that the numbers would lose interest in remaining members of the reiterkorps?

A The tendency, particularly among youth, was toward motorization.

Q It was, then, the desire of the SA leadership to increase interest in getting moreand more members into the Reiterkorps?

A The constantly diminishing importance of the SA after the seizure of power was generally known.

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Q Just answer my question.

(Question is repeated)

A It was important to the leaders that they should increase their membership, just as it was important to the general SA that they should have ever-increasing membership.

Q Wasn't it the purpose of this article to give incentive to keep people in the reiterkorps ot to join the reiterkorp

A That might have been the purpose of this article, but it was not read in the lower circles.

Q You say that the cavalry was a receding part of the wehrmacht. Do you have any idea of the numbers - the hundreds and thousands - of horses used in the cavalry and artillery of the wehrmacht?

A I have no idea of the figures. I only know that new tasks were constantly assigned to mounted regiments, and that whole groups were transferred to other formations.

Q How do you know, witness, when you make a statement saying that a person, by being a member of the reiterkorps, was not entitled by right to join the cavalry instead of some other branch of the German forces?

A I do not understand...

Q I shall reframe the question. By what means are you able, to tell the Commission that mere membership in the reiterkorps did not give a member the right to select the cavalry as his branch of service? Before you answer that question, I shall ask you another one, so that you can answer them both together: From what source did you get your knowledge that only four out of thirty men in your city who were members of the reiterkorps were assigned to a cavalry unit?

A The first question : As far as the Wehrmacht was concerned, the draftee was not entitled to anything whatsoever.

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The riding certificate was merely a certificate of degree of efficiency regarding his ability to ride or to drive.

Q My question was, how do you know?

A From my own city. Young people who has these riding certificates were not assigned where they wanted to go.

Mr. TAYLOR : Don't you think we have gone into that for enough?

COMMANDER FELTON : No more questions.

DR LOEFFLER : I have one question.

BY DR : LOEFFLER :

Q The Prosecution asked the witness yesterday, how and by what means the reiterkorps made active opposition to the SA. As a small sub-leader of the SA, you declare that you were not familiar with the leadership. But you can make statements of the opposition within the broad mass of the reiterkorps. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Did the reiterkorps reject the philosophical training as demanded by the Party?

A Almost nothing of philosophical training was given.

Q Is it correct that the Party demanded such, and that the reiterkorps would not do it?

A Yes.

Q Is it correct that the Party demanded the exclusion of politically suspicious people, and that the reiterkorps refused to do so?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q Is it correct that the Party demanded that, in 1937, all members of the reiterkorps were to be transferred into the Party, and that the reiterkorps refused that demand?

A Yes.

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Q Is it correct that, up to and including the dissolution, many members of the reiterkorps were not Party members?

A This is correct.

MR. MARROCO : I understood that the Defense Counsel had only one question to ask.

DR. LOEFFLER : I will be finished by one o'clock, I have said.

BY DR. LOEFFLER :

Q Did you notice that there was a difference between the attitude of the high political leadership and the sub-leadership?

A I discussed this with several group riding leaders which are the highest leaders, and I found that these shared the opinions of the members of the reiterkorps.

Q The Prosecution has asked whether the farmers who owned their own horses had to be necessarily members of the reiterkorps, since, after all, they could exercise their sport on their own horses outside the club. You told us that 80% of the members were farmers; for these the important part was the breeding and care of horses. Was it necessary that, if farmers wanted to listen to a lecture by a veterinarian on the illness of horses, such farmers had to apply for a veterinarian to come to them?

A Yes.

Q And is it true that, because of that, the farmers had to form an association for the breeding and care of horses for purely agricultural reasons?

A That was the reason why the farmers had to establish associations before, as well as after, 1933.

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Q Does the witness stock to his statement that such associations, after 1933, were allowed only if they belonged to the National Socialist Riding Corps?

MR TAYLOR : I think he answered that yesterday. That is repetition.

BY DR. LOEFFLER :

Q About military training. The prosecution believes that the articles submitted to you are a consummation of the fact that the reiterkorps has trained Wehrmannschaften. Do you know when the SA Wehrmannschaften were established?

A I don't know exactly, but I think during wartime.

Q I wish to state that the articles are dated 1936, when there were no Wehrmannsxhaften. Witness, you have stated that you are acquainted with the practices of the reiterkorps in a large part of Germany. Either in your own home town, or anywhere else in Germany, did you ever hear of military practices being executed as described in these articles? I shall submit the details of the article to you. Have you ever heard that scouting exercises were practices?

MR. TAYLOR : I think that the witness answered that a while ago.

DR. LOEFFLER : I wish to question the witness on what the Prosecution submitted. I shall make the questions short.

BY DR. LOEFFLER :

Q Have you ever heard of any practices by the reiterkorps in regard to scouting?

A No.

Q Manoeuvres?

A No.

Q Wouldn't it be the same to reproach a member of the

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automobile club for training for possible assignment to a driver's job in the army?

A. that might be a good comparison.

Q Did membership in the reiterkorps alone entitle the member to ask for an assignment to mounted unit of the Wehrmacht

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A No.

DR. LOEFFLER: I do not believe that the witness has been understood correctlyregarding the meaning of the article.

MR. TAYLOR: I think we have heard enough about the article.

DR. LOEFFLER: No further questions. But regarding the problems pertaining to the highest leadership and also questions pertaining to these articles, I wish to question the other witness.

MR. TAYLOR: Very well.

DR. LOEFFLER: All these articles have nothing to do with the practical activity of the reiterkorps.

MR. MARRECO: May I put one question?

BY MR. MARRECO:

Q Did I understand you correctly when you said that wehrmannschafte was not used before the war?

A I was asked when wehrmannschaften were established. In my opinion, in wartime.

Q Will you just look at that. That is a pre-war publication, isn't it?

DR. LOEFFLER: I object to the submission of this document.

MR. TAYLOR: Just a moment. This is proper cross-examination. Let the witness look through the book and answer the question. The instrument isn't being offered yet. Is he ready to answer the question?

MR. MARRECO: That's a pre-war publication, isn't it? It's a publication entitled "The Face of the Party", in which appears not one single thing about the war. Therefore, we can assume that it is a pre-war publicatio

MR. TAYLOR: Is it a pre-war publication, Witness?

MR. MARRECO: Surely you can answer the question. It is an undated publication and obviously a pre-war publication.

A It is a compilation regarding several National Socialist organization

Q Is it likely that there would be a Party publication published during the war which does not mention one word about the war?

A I cannot answer that.

Q Will you look at Page 19. Do you see the word in large letters --

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"SA wehrmannschaften"?

A Yes.

Q Do you consider that that applies to training carried on in wartime?

A I have to repeat what I said before. In my opinion the wehrmannschaften were established during the war.

Q I am not asking your opinion. Do you not see the words "SA wehrmannschaften", and see them in a pre-war article?

DR. LOEFFLER: Judge Jackson has withdrawn the charges against the wehrmannschafte, on 28 February 1946.

MR. TAYLOR: Objection overruled. The question is proper cross-examination.

MR. MARRECO: I shall repeat my question.

(Question is repeated.)

A I want to peruse the article before I can judge that.

DR. LOEFFLER: I want to ask one question of the witness. Is it correct that much has been written in Germany for twelve years regarding the relationship of wehrmannschaften to...

MR. TAYLOR: This Commission is adjourned.

(Commission adjourned at 1305 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of RICHARD WALLE, taken on 26 June 1946.

D. J. NOLL
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

GEO. R. TAYLOR
Commissioner